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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Staff Training

All AVRL public service staff attended a one-day Reference Interview Workshop on April 19-20, held in the conference room of the Bridgetown Motor Inn. The workshop was offered for 2 days in order to accommodate all branch staff. Debbie Costelo, Public Services Librarian with the Nova Scotia Community College, delivered a well received session on the reference process – from the moment the patron walks through the door (1st impression) to when the patron leaves (the 2nd impression); listening skills; selective perception, open, closed & neutral questioning techniques; potential problems with questions; re-stating/re-phrasing techniques; and finding appropriate sources.

AVRL Programs

A Feng Shui evening was held at the Windsor Library in late March. Presenter was local feng shui consultant, Lynn Murray.

The Annapolis Royal Library has been the site of Free Income Tax Return Assistance for individuals who qualify for this aid under a federal program.

A very successful series of CAP-sponsored after-school programs and pre-school story & craft hours

are on-going at the Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown and Lawrencetown Libraries. Almost all the programs have full registrations, with extra children showing up the day of the events. Employee Wendy Kearnes, who is also a textile artist, combines her many talents to produce these popular children's programs.

New Windsor Library Update

Fund-raisers for the new Windsor Library facility received $50,000 in ACOA funding on April 5. Kings-Hants MP Scott Brison was on hand to make the announcement. The Friends of Windsor Regional Library, a volunteer group heading up construction of the new 4,000 square-foot facility, had applied for the money 14 months ago. This federal grant brings the total amount raised to date to just over $700,000. The committee had initially set a fund-raising goal of $600,000, which was increased to $750,000 last summer after a few delays and additional building material costs. The sod-turning ceremony took place on Monday, April 19 with Hugh Roddis turning the first sod. Roddis, with his wife Mary, donated $300,000 to match the amount the community raised.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

CBRL hosted another successful season of free information programs. The topics offered during the 2004 Winter/Spring season were varied and well attended. Some of the more popular sessions were Understanding Oceans, The Beauty and Mystique of Amber, Gardening and Historic Petersfield Provincial Park. The session on oceans was a fascinating introduction on how oceans work and the important role we all play in their sustainability. David Lamb provided an interactive, thoroughly enjoyable discussion on the ubiquitous amber. Rita Campbell of Hank's Family Farm returned to a packed room for her gardening session. Rita has offered a gardening session at the library for the last number of years and every year we are obligated to turn people away as the session is so popular. This year was no exception.

Donald Ward, Reference Librarian at the McConnell Library offered the April 6 session--Historic Petersfield Provincial Park. The McLennans of Petersfield influenced the development of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia from the late 19th century, well into the present century. Their story is not generally well known, although their influence on events of the early 20th century in Cape Breton was significant. They were involved in many areas, including the coal and steel industries, publishing and the arts. Perhaps the greatest impact the McLennans had on Cape Breton resulted from their interest in the Fortress Louisbourg. Senator John S. McLennan, with the help of his daughter Katharine, carried out much of the original research on the Fortress Louisbourg in the late 1800s and early 1900s in France, Britain and the United States. These research documents were copied by hand, since there were no photocopiers. John's book, *Louisbourg: From Its Foundation to Its Fall*, is still considered by some to be the definitive work on the subject. Don did a great job of transporting all who attended the session to another place and time in the history of Cape Breton with fascinating details, stories and artifacts.

As a result of the program, *The Cape Breton Post* interviewed Don and ran a full page article about Petersfield on Saturday, April 17, 2004. To learn more about the McLennan's and their place in Cape Breton's social and cultural past visit the CBRL web page at http://www.cbrl.ca/.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

CURL received funding from the Canadian Volunteer Initiative to conduct a survey as well as two focus

groups on volunteer opportunities for teens at the library. Teens were also asked about the type of books and programs they would like the library to offer. Over 200 teens filled out questionnaires and 18 participated in two focus groups. The information gathered will be used in collection development to make purchasing decisions and in designing programs for this age group. This project was one of the actions outlined in CURL's strategic plan.

On April 5 during branch deliveries, the library van skidded and flipped over onto its roof due to poor weather conditions. Thankfully no one was injured. Branch deliveries are currently being carried out in a rental van until it is known if the library vehicle can be repaired.

Easter programs were held in the Amherst, Springhill, River Hebert and Oxford branches.

The 2003 fiscal year saw circulation statistics increase by 6 percent over the previous year and program attendance jump by 23 percent.

Children at the Oxford Library proudly displaying their Easter crafts.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

ECRL recently concluded its third annual March Library Card Month resulting in the addition of approximately 300 new members. Local radio sponsor, *101.5 The Hawk* provided a donation of air time, valued at $1500, running an average of five 30-second ads daily throughout the month. In addition, newspaper subscription prizes were again provided by community newspapers, *The Reporter*, *The Inverness Oran* and *The Guysborough Journal*. Displays were set up in the three counties served by ECRL, primarily in community-owned grocery stores, but also included a seniors' centre, fitness centre and the Larrys River Open House at the Communities Along the Bay Multi-Use Centre.

As a result of a $500 grant provided by the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB), ECRL was able to purchase books on recycling and composting from *Raincoast Press*, a conscientious publisher of titles printed on recycled and acid-free paper. Labels indicating the RRFB support of waste reduction, reusing materials, recycling and composting were placed in the books.

Joyce Oliver-Snair, Mulgrave Branch Library Assistant peruses the new collection with some younger patrons.

Franz Bieber, ECRL's Library Driver, continues to travel the roads of Inverness, Richmond and Guysborough Counties making deliveries and exchanges to all library branches. This service includes delivering books to home bound patrons along four routes every six weeks. Day cares and seniors villas are also included in his schedule.

Franz Bieber loads the new book trolley to take to the Port Hood Libr@ry Link site.

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

New Information Technology Learning Centre

Thanks to a generous $50,000 donation from the Heinish Foundation, the Heinish Room in the Halifax North Public Library will be getting a major facelift this June. The Heinish Learning Centre, including ten computer workstations, will be established in the room and will be open for use by the public. The Grand Opening of the Centre will be on Wednesday, June 30 at 2 pm.

Chess Tournament

The Ninth Annual Children's Chess Tournament was held during March Break at the Alderney Gate Public Library. The open tournament was sponsored by the Dartmouth Junior Chess Club and Halifax Public Libraries. Seventy-five keen competitors vied for the title in three levels of play, resulting in an exciting day filled with many thrilling chess matches! Winners received medals, trophies and gift certificates for books. Congratulations to all winners and competitors.

Author Readings

On April 14, acclaimed author Wayne Johnston appeared at the Bedford Public Library to a packed house of fans and well-wishers, reading from his latest novel *Navigator of New York*.

In May HPL is offering a number of exciting readings as well, with guests including Beatrice MacNeil, Leo McKay Jr., Kerri Sakamoto and for younger readers, Karen Levine.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

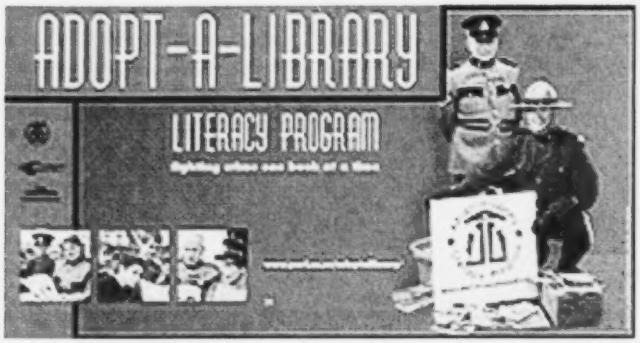
Rose Vaughan Reads and Sings

Halifax poet and entertainer Rose Vaughan, formerly of the Rose Vaughan Trio, visited the New Glasgow Library Program Room on Friday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. Vaughan accompanied herself on guitar and performed a mix of poetry, old Rose Vaughan Trio favorites, and some new material. Setting the stage for Vaughan was local entertainer Sue Walsh who played a few of her own songs. Earlier in the day, Vaughan gave a book reading in the New Glasgow Library Program Room to the grade six classes of the Temperance and Acadia Street Schools. Vaughan read from her new book *My Scrapbook By Gus*, a whimsical account of the life of Gus, the much beloved eighty-two year old tortoise that has been a guest of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History since 1942. Vaughan hand made 500 copies of the children's book as a stay at home project over the last year after she became fascinated with the life story of Gus the tortoise.

Poet and musician Rose Vaughan relaxes after her perfomance at the New Glasgow Library Program Room.

Adopt-a-Library

The Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program recently rounded a big corner in its efforts to become a nationally recognized program, with the printing and release of its own professionally designed poster. Created through input from PARL, funding from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, and the talents of graphic designer Cathy Little, the attractive poster features a serge color theme and depicts interaction between children and municipal and RCMP police officers. The poster will be distributed across the county to libraries, schools and business that participate in this win, win reading initiative that has as its slogan, *Fighting crime one book at a time*.



The new Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program poster.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

Ann Marie MacDonald To Visit South Shore

It's official! Ann Marie MacDonald will visit Lunenburg on Saturday, Sept. 18 for an author reading and book signing. SSRL will host this event at the Pearl Theatre. Details are still being planned, but it is hoped to make this a gala fundraiser for the library, with a wine and cheese reception following the show. MacDonald's latest book, *The Way the Crow Flies*, will be released in paperback the week before this event.

Staff Changes

SSRL was disappointed to learn that librarian Cheryl Stenstrom will leave at the end of April. Cheryl joined the library in July 2002 and has been a breath of fresh air with systems expertise, motivation of staff, cool shoe collection and wry sense of humor. Cheryl and her husband Martin will return to Vancouver where Martin has accepted a job and Cheryl will have access to her beloved Fluevogs.

Staff member Sherry Muise is also leaving the fold after almost ten years behind the desk at the Liverpool Library (Thomas H. Raddall). Sherry has worked through many changes in library service including the demise of the old card catalogue and was involved during the move to larger, newer quarters in 2002.

Staff bid a fond farewell to Cheryl and Sherry at a dinner in their honour on Monday, April 19th.

Don Zwicker, Chair of the SSRL Board, offers warm farewell wishes to Cheryl Stenstrom (left) and Sherry Muise (right).

Robin Benjamin and Georges de Rome will be the new staff at the Thomas H. Raddall Library. Robin has substituted throughout the system over the past couple of years. Georges is an artist and enthusiastic library user. Welcome Robin and Georges.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Adopt-a-Book

The campaign was launched at noon on Thursday, April 1 at the Yarmouth Branch Library. In his remarks, Board Chair Gary Archibald said library boards throughout Nova Scotia are facing serious and ongoing financial challenges. Archibald served on the Regional Public Libraries Funding Review Committee, which recently prepared a report for the Minister of Education. The committee found funding for libraries over the last decade has not kept pace with the increasing costs for the materials needed to stock library shelves. For instance, between 1996-2000 book prices have increased, on average, by nearly 15 per cent.

Over the last decade Adopt-a-Book, sponsored by CJLS Radio, has allowed WCRL to maintain its book budget despite significant financial pressures. With all branches reporting adoptions, the first day of the campaign saw 150 books adopted. This year's goal is to adopt 1000 books (or CDs and DVDs) during the three-month campaign. To date over 400 books have been adopted.

WCRL's Adopt-a-Library launch gets lots of media attention!

Trivia Challenge

WCRL's April Fool's Trivia Challenge, which launched this year's Adopt-a-Book campaign, attracted 12 teams to the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth. Teams representing a variety of area businesses and groups participated in a series of one-on-one games throughout the afternoon, before winners of each game returned at 5 p.m. for the sudden death championship. A team from the Yarmouth Vanguard' s newsroom won the trivia challenge. Although there was no registration fee to enter a team, $1800 in contributions was received from participating teams that day. The Trivia Challenge was held in celebration of the launch of the library's fifth Adopt-a-Book campaign, which is sponsored by Radio CJLS. Official ceremonies began at noon, when the library's new mascot Lotta Bookz was introduced. The mascot will be *adopted* for a year by the individual or organization that earns the most points during the three-month Adopt-a-Book Challenge. WCRL has added the challenge element to this year's campaign by inviting donors to increase the power of their donation by challenging others to also adopt a book. Points are earned both for the individual's contribution and for the contributions of those they challenged.

Lots of action during one of the Trivia Challenge games!

WCRL's Joanne Head (The Big Cheese) approaches Library Director Trudy Amirault and Board Chair Gary Archibald during the Adopt-a-Library Trivia Challenge at the IWK Memorial Library.

Open Houses, Contests, Awards Highlight IT That Works

WCRL staff have once again contributed to organizing this year's South West IT Week (May 2-8). Information Technology (IT) That Works is part of a two-year plan to promote the presence of technology in the workplace, at school and in the home. Organizers are planning now for a two-day extravaganza in 2005 that will include both a business/products expo and an Atlantic computer gaming competition. This year, in the run up to next year's expo, the committee is sponsoring both an IT Entrepreneur of the Year award and an online contest for youth, as well as a series of open houses. WCRL is hosting three open houses at branches in Lockeport, Clark's Harbour and Meteghan. The committee has chosen an alternate year format for its expo, in response to input from the business community, said organizing committee chair Trudy Amirault. The South West Nova Community Access Society represents Community Access Program CAP sites throughout the region.

WCRL Deputy Director Virginia Stoddard reviews a contest poster with IT Week.

Regional Library Director Invited To Attend International Conference On Community Access To Technology

WCRL Director Trudy Amirault has been invited to attend the Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet) 13th annual conference in Seattle, Washington in June. Titled *Building Connected Communities: The Power of People & Technology*, the conference will explore strategies for lowering the digital divide between those who have access to computers in their homes and offices and those who don't. "In southwestern Nova Scotia we are trying to bridge the digital divide using CAP sites and libraries and we are always looking for effective programs and strategies," said Amirault. CTCNet is similar to Canada's Community Access Program CAP in its vision, which is "a society in which all people are equitably empowered by technology skills and usage". CTCNet is a network of more than 1000 community technology centres where people in low-income communities gain access to computers and computer-related technology, such as the Internet. For more than ten years, CTCNet's mission has been to support community technology centers so that they can better serve their constituencies. Underlying the conference's themes is the recognition that in an increasingly technologically dominated society, people who are socially and/or economically disadvantaged will become further disadvantaged if they lack access to computers and computer-related technologies. Amirault will join counterparts from Industry Canada and the Community Access Program CAP to represent a Canadian perspective at the conference.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS), DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

The School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), Dalhousie University, would like to invite Practitioners to join a new continuing education (CE) initiative. CE learners are welcome to enroll in modules of this SLIS online course. An interest in the topic is all that is required; no previous formal diplomas or degrees in librarianship are needed. Participants may enroll in one or more modules. Fees for each module cover a course-pack of readings, a related exercise, and access to Module 1 (History and Definition of User Services) in addition to the online discussion of specific user groups. Further information about the course and modules can be found at the course website: http://courses.mgmt.dal.

ca/libs6500/.

The SLIS alumni reunion at the 2004 ALA Conference will be held on Sunday, June 27, 5:30 p.m. at Bennigan's restaurant (6109 Westwood Blvd). It is I-Ride Trolley stop #35. Please join Norman Horrocks, Bertrum MacDonald and fellow alumni for dinner. Please contact Shanna Balogh at SLIS slis@is.dal.ca if you plan to attend. Plans are underway for an alumni reunion during the CLA conference in Victoria. Details will be posted as soon as they are available.

NEWS FROM THE CLA-SLIS STUDENT CHAPTER

The CLA-SLIS Professional Partnering Programme's year-end dinner was held April 6, 2004 at the University Club, Dalhousie University. The 45 attendees spent an enjoyable evening chatting to student and professional colleagues.

In just its second year the program drew 73 participants, an increase of 175 percent over last year. Throughout the academic year, partners have attended program-sponsored events such as the opening reception in November and the CASLIS Holly Jolly Social in December (co-sponsorship). Individual pair activities have included workplace tours, professional workshops, résumé reviews and meetings over coffee.

The Professional Partnering Programme is an important opportunity for students to meet library professionals outside SLIS, and an opportunity for practicing librarians, archivists and records managers to share their experiences and insights. All information professionals are warmly invited to participate next year. For more details, please contact incoming student chapter co-chairs Sarah Jane Dooley at sdooley@dal.ca , or Jennifer Dumond at jdumond@dal.ca.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

SMART SEARCH SESSIONS CONTINUE AT THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

Calling all web searchers for another audio session in the Smart Search Update series! Join us at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library on May 6 where Rita Vine, one of North America's leading web search specialists and a co-founder of *Workingfaster.com*, a library training consultancy based in Toronto, will be providing new information on web resources, specialized search tools, and important news about web search developments in a 60 minute telephone session. Keep your search skills up-to-date with new search techniques, the latest in internet search tools and valuable insights presented by an expert.

You'll have an opportunity to ask Rita questions about the web or her presentation while you have her ear! Share your thoughts and ask your questions. Rita will be happy to help and maybe direct you to a new corner of the World Wide Web for more information and discovery!

Time: Thursday, May 6th, 4-5 p.m.
Place: Conference Room, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, 3770 Kempt Road, Halifax (Parking is available in front of the building.)
Admission is free. If you would like to attend please contact Carol Morris by phone at 424-2477 or e-mail at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

APRIL 16 TELECONFERENCE UPDATE

On April 16, the Provincial Library hosted a satellite broadcast of another of the College of DuPage reference series titled *Joe Janes and Colleagues: Preparing for the Future of Digital Reference*. It was attended by library staff from a variety of libraries in the area who agreed that this was one of the most interesting of these teleconferences they had attended. The panelists hosted by Richard Daugherty were enthusiastic and dynamic in their presentations and discussions. Joe Thompson, Project Coordinator, Maryland *AskUsNow!* described the challenges, training requirements and benefits of collaboration in running the Maryland *AskUsNow!* service, which is part of the American 24/7 cooperative reference service that originated in California. Mary Anne Hodel, Director, Orange County Library, Florida advocated embracing new technologies including *Vocera*, a wearable instant voice communication system which is in use by staff in the Orange County Library system, to make reference effective and keep it relevant to users. Joe Janes, Associate Professor and Chair of Library and Information Science, the Information School of the University of Washington and Founding Director of the Internet Public Library stated that there are now many digital reference services answering ready reference questions. In future the challenge will be to provide service at the time and point of need. He challenged listeners to think of what they would do to set up a reference service using new technologies if they were just starting and one hadn't previously existed.

Following the telecast Patrick Ellis, Coordinator of Reference Services at the Kellogg Health Sciences Library spoke about developments in health science information. He focused on the trend to evidence-based health information, that is information obtained through experience which provides the best evidence of effectiveness of treatments. He said that *The Cochrane Library*, a collection of evidence-based medicine databases is a leader in this area. It has until now only been accessible to staff and students at universities but, recently in Saskatchewan a province-wide license for multitype partners has been approved which will make it available to the public through public libraries. More information on the *Cochrane Library* is available at *The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre* web site at http://cochrane.mcmaster.ca.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

LIBRARY BOARDS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE (LBANS)

Hosted by AVRL the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) held its annual conference April 16-18 at the Old Orchard Inn with approximately 45 people in attendance. The theme was *Advocating, Building, Connecting*. Keynote Speaker, Madeleine Lefebvre, President of CLA and University Librarian at Saint Mary's University, set the stage with her address *Telling Our Stories; Advocacy in Action*, which focussed on the topic of building a community of shared values.

The session Path to Power presented suggestions from a Municipal Councillor on how to be an effective voice for public libraries at the municipal and provincial levels, and a response from a former Cabinet Minister, who spoke about the effectiveness of the advocacy from a provincial politicians view. *Media Moxy* offered important tips from members of the media on how to make the most effective use of this venue to get your message across. The final session on Saturday, Capital Conundrum, offered suggestions on identifying sources of capital funding and included a demonstration of the on-line database Prospect Research Online.

Saturday evening saw the Conference Banquet with guest speaker Wayne Doggett, Senior Executive Director of Higher Education in the Department of Education.

Jean Melanson, Warden for the county of Clare was presented with a Merit and Honorary Membership Award by the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) during the organization's annual convention held at the Old Orchard Inn outside of Wolfville. The award recognizes outstanding leadership in the advancement of public library trusteeship and public library service in Nova Scotia. Warden Melanson has been a member of the Board of Trustees for WCRL for 22 years and served as board chair in 1986-87. In advancing his nomination, WCRL's current Board Chair, Gary Archibald noted both his work at the local level, and provincially, his strong voice in support of library services for the Acadian community. In 1982, he was active in the establishment of the Senator Ambroise H. Comeau Memorial Library in Meteghan and his support in 2000 was crucial in the refurbishment of that library, one of 10 branches of WCRL. He served on the committee that selected the library as the site of the Meteghan CAP site.

During the late 1990s, Jean served on a committee of the Provincial Library that spearheaded an initiative to secure federal funding to support the delivery of French language services at libraries serving Acadian communities across the province. Warden Melanson has also facilitated the development of a web site entitled *Acadian Odyssey*, which was a partnership of WCRL and the Centre Acadien at Université Sainte-Anne. "Warden Melanson works quietly but very effectively for the cause of libraries. His voice at the board table is one of reason and support; his advice is experienced and wise," Archibald said.

Left to right: LBANS President John Paterson presents Warden Jean Melanson, a member of the Western Counties Regional Library Board for 22 years, with the Merit Award and Honourary Membership for his service to public libraries in his area.

Following the Banquet and presentations, the group was entertained with medieval music and traditional French songs by *Ensenble Par.*

The Conference wrapped up Sunday morning with a Town Hall session which, in addition to questions from the floor, included a short presentation by Peter Doig, Chair, Halifax Public Libraries, on their successful defense against a recent move by a HRM Councillor to disband the Halifax Regional Library Board. The membership unanimously agreed to hold the 2005 Conference as a joint effort with the

Nova Scotia Library Association Conference in Cumberland County, September 30, October 1 & 2, 2005.

The Executive of LBANS for 2004-05 is: Past President, Betty Thomas; President, John Patterson; Vice-President, Janet Ness; Secretary, Joe Walsh; Treasurer, Sarah MacRae; Directors, Mary MacLellan, Ivan Doncatser, and Gary Archibald. One Director's position is still vacant.

The LBANS 2004 Executive.

NOVA SCOTIA DIGITAL COLLECTIONS INITIATIVE (NSDCI)

On April 22nd, 50 people filled the room for the 2nd Open Meeting of the Nova Scotia Digital Collections Initiative (NSDCI) at the Council of Nova Scotia Archives Spring Conference.

Eric Stackhouse, Interim NSDCI Chair and Chief Librarian at Pictou Antigonish Regional Library, welcomed representatives from a wide range of organizations active in creating and managing digital resources in Nova Scotia, including archives, museums, libraries, educational institutions, government, volunteer and non-profit agencies.

Reviewing achievements, he focussed on the creation of the NSDCI website http://nsdci.library.ns.ca/ which now offers the tools to facilitate collaboration among members and provide one-stop access to digitization resources such as standards and funding opportunities. As well, the site offers a unique approach to providing an inventory of Nova Scotia digital projects http://nsdci.library.ns.ca/invent.shtml for which it has been recognised by the Inventory of Canadian Digital Initiatives. Recent additions to this inventory were highlighted.

As it moves into its third year, the NSDCI will focus on playing an advocacy role for digitization and on facilitating joint training and workshop opportunities on topics identified by members. Membership is open to Nova Scotia organizations with an interest in digitization. For more information contact digitization@ednet.ns.ca.

HALIFAX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AGM

The annual general meeting of the Halifax Library Association (HLA) is scheduled for Thursday, May

13, 2004 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the National Research Council, Institute for Marine Biosciences, 1411 Oxford Street, Theatre. The theatre is on the 4th floor (enter the building's main entrance-only one is open after 5:30 pm) and take the elevator to the 4th floor. As usual, refreshments will be served. Non-HLA members are welcome to attend but are requested to join the association at the AGM.

The Halifax Library Association needs to fill the following positions to serve on next year's Executive: Vice-President/President-Elect, Membership Convenor and one Councillors. Next year is shaping up to one

of the most exciting in the association's history with the 70th Year Anniversary Party on the horizon! If you or one of your colleagues would like to serve on the Executive, please contact the Nominations Committee Chair, Darlene Chapman, by e-mail at darlene.chapman@iwk.nshealth.ca . It would be appreciated if you could contact Darlene by Friday, May 7th. Serving on the HLA Executive is rewarding, fun and a great way to meet new people in the library and information science field!

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions which were referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries and answered with help from resources found on the Internet.

Q. The patron is looking for the play *Masked Canary*.

A. A source for this play wasn't found in the print Play Index or databases such as AMICUS but it did turn up through a search of *playdatabase.com* a large database of plays and monologues on the internet at

http://www.playdatabase.com/. The record for this play says that it is available from the publisher, Pioneer Drama Service, and it links to the description of it in the Pioneer Drama Service Catalogue of Plays and Musicals http://www.pioneerdrama.com/headings/catalog.html.

Q. Would like crafts to make using sea or beach glass.

A. Some craft sites on the internet which have instructions for projects using this are listed below. Enter sea glass or beach glass in the site search boxes to locate them. DIY: do it yourself network http://www.diynet.com/; Paper Crafts Magazine http://www.craftsmag.com/; and HGTV: Home & Garden Television http://www.hgtv.com.

LINKed

The theme of the 2004 TD Summer Reading Club which some of the regional libraries in Nova Scotia are participating in is *Fire up your imagination: dragons, books, and quests*. Here are some web sites with stories, activities, booklists and information about dragons which should be useful.

Dragon Tales on the PBS Kids site at http://pbskids.org/dragontales/ is great for preschool children. It is based on the animated TV series of the same name. Six year old Emmy and her four year old brother Max have adventures with their dragon friends. This is a multimedia site with coloring pages,

games, stories, songs and video clips. It is designed to help young children learn about themselves and the world around them.

There are several sites which have annotated bibliographies of books with dragon themes and characters. *Dragons in Children's Literature: Annotated Bibliographies Compiled* by Tina L. Hanlon, Ph. D. is an excellent compilation of resources on this topic. Books are arranged in main categories of Picture Books, Poems, Background Resources, Novels, Collections and Dragons in Harry Potter Books. *Dragons: A Selected Bibliography for Children* on the Boston Public Library web site includes a listing of picture books and chapter books with brief annotations. Another is *Dragons* at http://www.hpl.hamilton.on.ca/kids/read/dragon1.shtml which is one of the booklists in the Reading Corner of Hamilton Public Library's web site. It also has brief annotations.

The National Gallery of Art (.U.S.) Kids site tells the story of Saint George and the Dragon at http://www.nga.gov/kids/rogier/rogier1.htm with a painting by the artist Rogier van den Weyden accompanied by descriptive text and activities. Just click on the red arrows at the bottom of the page to move from picture to picture.

Chinese Dragons http://thinkquest.parkhill.k12.mo.us/orientaldragons/ is an attractive and informative web site which is the work of four elementary school pupils with assistance from their teachers. It includes information on the culture, types, myths, origin and history of dragons and an interactive section where there is a dragon quiz, crossword and word search. This site was done as an entry in the *ThinkQuest* web site building competition, which challenges teams of students and teachers to build web sites on educational topics.

The *abcteach* web site has dragon related coloring pages, word games and story and poetry writing aids at http://www.abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/funkids/dragons/.

Web sites which were featured in previous *Linked* columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two books which have been recently added to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library's collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please submit requests via e-mail to inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca (or tel: 902-424-2479 / fax: 902-424-0633).Coffman, Steve - *Going live: starting and running a virtual reference service*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2003.

[Call#: Prof 025 .524 Cof]

This book provides a comprehensive overview of live online reference services and the process for establishing them. The chapters cover what librarians will need to know to design, manage, market and evaluate such programs. A final chapter takes a sober look at current and future reference

services, virtual and otherwise.

Faurot, Kimberly - *Books in bloom: creative patterns and props that bring stories to life*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2003.

[Call # : Prof 027 .625 Fau]

This book provides patterns for props and examples of story scripts for teachers and librarians to use in enhancing storytimes. It covers everything from obtaining copyright permissions and supplies to step-by-step directions. Ample illustrations are included to make it clear how to proceed.

Credits go to:
Debbie Costelo, HLA President 2003 - 2004

The Disseminator is an electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, 3770 Kempt Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 4X8. TEL (902) 424-2457; FAX (902) 424-0633

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Comments on or suggestions for The Disseminator should be directed to Arlene Watts at **wattsam@gov.ns.ca**

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